

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 2505 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAPE TOWN
AND GABORONE DATED JUNE 16, 1978.

QUOTE: CONFIDENTIAL USUN NEW YORK 02505

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY ONLY

GABORONE FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROP, PDEV, WA, SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: REPORT OF "SECRET" UN FILM ON
NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 141225

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL, WE HAVE DISCRETELY INQUIRED
AT THE UNITED NATIONS ABOUT THE REPORT THAT UN PERSONNEL
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INSIDE NAMIBIA ARE COVERTLY PRODUCING A FILM ON THE
TERRITORY WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS.
AMCIT WILLIAM POWELL, DIRECTOR OF THE PRESS AND PUBLICA-
TIONS DIVISION OF THE UN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
SAID THAT HE KNEW OF NO SUCH FILM PROJECT BUT SUGGESTED
THAT WE TALK WITH MARCEL MARTIN, DIRECTOR OF THE RADIO
AND VISUAL SERVICES DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC

INFORMATION. MARTIN SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US THAT THE REPORT IS UNTRUE. HE STATED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS IS NOT PRODUCING A FILM ON NAMIBIA. THE UN WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO, HE ADDED, BUT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WILL NOT ALLOW IT. MARTIN NOTED THAT BOTH SWAPO AND THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA HAVE REQUESTED THE UN TO PRODUCE SUCH A FILM AND THAT THE UN MIGHT INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF COMPILED A FILM BASED ON FOOTAGE ALREADY SHOT BY INDEPENDENT FILM MAKERS. MARTIN ADDITIONALLY STATED THAT THERE ARE NO INDEPENDENT OR NON-UN FILM MAKERS IN NAMIBIA ON THE UNITED NATIONS' BEHALF.

2. BOTH POWELL AND MARTIN ARE KNOWN TO THE MISSION TO BE RELIABLE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT IF THE UNITED NATIONS WERE PRODUCING THE ALLEGED FILM, THEY WOULD KNOW OF IT.

LEONARD UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z

Capture Date: 01 jan 1994

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: FILMS, ALLEGATIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 21 jun 1978

Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014

Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Disposition Approved on Date:

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

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TAGS: PROP, PDEV, WA, SF, UN

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Type: TE

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Review Markings:

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